

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

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R 272104Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3902

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 04258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEMS

REF: (A) USNATO 2301, DTG 201817Z APR 77. (B) USNATO
1308 DTG 081441Z MAR 77. (C) INFRA/SIG/77/61 DTD 17 MAY
77.

SUMMARY. AS INDICATED IN PARA 4 OF REF A, THE INTER-
NATIONAL STAFF (INFRASTRUCTURE DIRECTORATE) HAS REPORTED
ITS VIEWS ON THE TERMS OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE
NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE WHICH, AFTER OFF-RECORD DISCUSSION, REQUESTED
A FORMAL VERSION OF THE REPORT FOR CIRCULATION TO
CAPITALS. INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN (SMITH)
HAS REPORTED THIS STEP TO DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COUNCIL
OPERATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS (MCBRIEN) AND ADVISED HIM
OF THE PROBABLE COMMITTEE CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF A FAIR
PROPORTIONATE "ADMISSION CHARGE" TO THE FRENCH. END
SUMMARY.

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1. REFS A AND B REPORTED THE FRENCH REQUEST TO SYG
LUNS FOR A CONNECTION TO THE NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEM AND THE EVOLUTION OF THE CASE FOLLOWING ITS
ASSIGNMENT TO THE DIRECTOR OF COEC. AS INDICATED IN
PARA 4 OF REF A, THE STAFF OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE DIR-
ECTORATE HAS REPORTED ITS VIEWS ON THE TERMS OF FRENCH
PARTICIPATION IN NATO-WIDE TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE IN REF C (POUCHED 20 MAY 77).

2. TO RECAP THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF REPORT, IT DESCRIBES THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF NATO-WIDE, BREAKS DOWN THE COSTS TO NATO, AND EVALUATES THE REMAINING USEFUL LIFE OF THE EQUIPMENT. IT THEN SUGGESTS TWO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

A. SOLUTION 1 WOULD HAVE FRANCE SIMPLY PROVIDE THE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR THE FRENCH TRIBUTARY STATION AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE CIRCUIT RENTAL AND O&M COSTS IN THE MILITARY BUDGET AT THEIR NORMAL SHARE OF 17.1 PCT. THE FRENCH HAVE ALREADY INFORMALLY INDICATED THAT THEY CAN ACCEPT THIS SOLUTION.

B. SOLUTION 2 WOULD HAVE FRANCE CONTRIBUTE TO THE ENTIRE COST OF THE NETWORK, INCLUDING THE NEW FRENCH TERMINAL, AT THE RATE OF 13.16 PCT (THEIR SHARE FOR SLICE XVI AND BEYOND), BUT BASED ON DIFFERENTIAL QUOTAS REFLECTING THE REMAINING USEFUL LIFE OF THE EQUIPMENT. IN THIS CASE THE OTHER 14 NATIONS WOULD CONTRIBUTE 86.84 PCT OF THE COST OF THE FRENCH TRIBUTARY WHILE FRANCE WOULD PAY SOME 13 PCT OF THE COST OF THE ORIGINAL BASIC EQUIPMENT REDUCED BY A REMAINING LIFE FACTOR.

IN BOTH SOLUTIONS, THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF SUGGESTS THAT, IF FRANCE PROVIDED THE EQUIPMENT FOR HER TRIBUTARY STATION FROM EXISTING STOCK, IT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN "EXISTING FACILITY" UNDER NORMAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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RULES AND THEREFORE NOT COUNTED AS PART OF THE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION.

3. THE NATO-WIDE NETWORK INCLUDES TARE (TELEGRAPH AUTOMATIC RELAY) SWITCHES AT EVERE AND NORTHWOOD WHICH, IN TURN, TIE INTO NATO SATCOM CIRCUITS. THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF POINTS OUT THAT THESE SATCOM CIRCUITS HAVE EITHER A BACK-UP FUNCTION (EVERE TARE) OR CONSTITUTE A VERY SMALL PROPORTION OF THE SATCOM CAPABILITY (NORTHWOOD TARE) AND RECOMMEND THAT THE COMMITTEE DISREGARD THE POSSIBILITY OF A FRENCH CONTRIBUTION IN THIS AREA AT THIS STAGE. THEY DO SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT FRANCE MIGHT MAKE A PROPORTIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAPITAL COST OF THE TWO NEW NICS TARES WHICH WILL REPLACE THOSE AT EVERE AND NORTHWOOD.

4. BY PRIOR AGREEMENT THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE HELD AN OFF-RECORD DISCUSSION OF REF C "AT 14" ON 24 MAY 77. ALTHOUGH MOST, IF NOT ALL, REPRESENTATIVES WERE UNINSTRUCTED, THERE WAS A CLEAR CONSENSUS IN FAVOR

OF SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF SOLUTION 2 (PARA 2 ABOVE), I.E., STANDING BY THE PRINCIPLE THAT BENEFITS IMPLY RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS. WHEN THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF REP (CONTROTTI) STATED THAT THE FRENCH HAD PROBABLY ALREADY BUDGETED FOR THEIR ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTION BASED ON PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS, THE NETHERLANDS REP (DE POOTER) COUNTERED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES VIEWED THE ISSUE AS ONE OF PRINCIPLE AND THAT THE FRENCH WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER THE VIEWS OF THE "14" ON WHAT WAS A FAIR SHARE. WE BELIEVE THIS WILL BE THE ATTITUDE OF THE

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MAJORITY.

5. THE COMMITTEE ALSO DEBATED THE PROBLEM POSED BY FRENCH INSISTENCE ON LOW-KEY HANDLING OF THEIR REQUEST. WHILE MEMBERS WERE SYMPATHETIC TO THE REASONS FOR THE FRENCH VIEW, THEY CONCLUDED THAT A FORMAL (AC/4 SERIES) VERSION OF REF C WOULD HAVE TO BE CIRCULATED TO CAPITALS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR OFFICIAL NATIONAL POSITIONS AND A RECORD DECISION WHICH COULD BE CONVEYED TO THE DIRECTOR COEC FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE FRENCH.

6. IN OUR VIEW, THE US SHOULD SUPPORT A FORMULA ALONG THE LINES OF SOLUTION 2 PLUS A FRENCH CONTRIBUTION TO SOME PORTION OF THE NEW TARE SYSTEM AT HER NORMAL SHARE OF 13.16 PCT. FRANCE SHOULD, OF COURSE, PAY THE ENTIRE COST OF ANY SOFTWARE MODIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO LIMIT

FRENCH USE OF THE NEW SYSTEM TO THAT PROVIDED BY THE
PRESENT NATO-WIDE SYSTEM.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED AS
PROPOSED PARA 6, ABOVE. BENNETT
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